

**Meeting Date:** November 2007

**Agenda Item No. 8**

**Agenda Item:** Rules: Fishing 2008-2009

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Bill Horton

**Background:**

Every two years, the Fisheries Bureau and Regions review current and proposed fishing rules and make recommendations to the Director's Office for changes. The Department then presents these to the Fish and Game Commission for rule making. Both biological and social issues are considered in developing and maintaining or modifying of fishing rules.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to set Fishing Rules. Fishing Rules are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11

**Public Involvement Process:**

Each Regional Fishery Manager takes comments from the public regarding fishing rules during the previous two years. Additionally, during the spring 2007 each region notified the public through news releases that they are holding open houses, public meetings, and/or are accepting comments in any form to discuss current and proposed fishing rules and to accept suggestions for rule changes from the public. Following Commission approval on these general concepts (July 2007), the proposed rules were presented to the public and agencies for specific rule modifications. Additional input is also sought. These comments have been reviewed by the Department and used to develop specific rule proposals for consideration by the Commission at the November meeting. Department guidelines for taking public input are followed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve proposed fish rule changes for 2008-2009.

**Justification:**

Title 36 of Idaho State Code gives the Commission the authority to set rules to preserve, protect, or manage fish and wildlife in Idaho. Proposed changes (attached) are to address biological issues, angler desires, and/or to make the fishing rules more easily understood.

**Attachment:**

See Fishing Rule Proposals attached.